

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /060 W
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R 021000Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3973

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 13

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CE

SUBJ: COMMUNIST PARTY EXPOUNDS VIEWS ON WORLD AND DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

REF: 74 COLOMBO A-167

1. SUMMARY: CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF COMMUNIST PARTY/
MOSCOW-WING (CP/M) MET RECENTLY AND ISSUED STATEMENT
TO PRESS CONTAINING PRONOUNCEMENTS ON VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL
AND DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS. STATEMENT BOOSTED DETENTE AND
GENERALLY FOLLOWED OTHER SOVIET LINES WHILE DOMESTICALLY
CALLING FOR LEFT TO RALLY AGAINST EFFORTS TO PUSH UNITED
FRONT (UF) GOVERNMENT TO RIGHT. CURRENT DISPUTE OVER
WHETHER PARTY SHOULD REMAIN IN UF WAS NOT MENTIONED
BUT RECENT OUSTER OF CP/M DAILY ATTHA'S EDITORIAL ADVISER
WOULD INDICATE OLD SCHISM MAY REOPEN. END SUMMARY.

2. CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF COMMUNIST PARTY/MOSCOW-WING
(CP/M) FINISHED RECENT MEETING AND "NOTED WITH SATISFACTION"
PROGRESS OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE DESPITE DIFFICULTIES AND
SETBACKS. IT CRITICIZED "SO:ALLED MANILA DOCTRINE"
ENUNCIATED BY PRESIDENT FORD AS SERIOUS THREAT TO
REGIONAL SECURITY AND TO INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE CON-
CEPT. COMMITTEE WENT ON TO CONDEMN ATTEMPTS BY US
"IMPERIALISTS," SOUTH AFRICAN "RACIALISTS", AND
"MAOISTS" TO DEPRIVE ANGOLANS OF THEIR NEW FREEDOM AND
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CALLED ON GSL TO RECOGNIZE MPLA REGIME AS HAD 40 OTHER

COUNTRIES. IT ALSO GAVE STRONG SUPPORT TO HOLDING OF NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO, PERHAPS TO OVERCOME SUSPICIONS AMONG PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE'S CIRCLE THAT SOVIETS MIGHT PREFER NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE BE HELD IN COUNTRY MORE RESPONSIVE TO SOVIET LEADERSHIP. IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS PROGRESSIVE FORCES OF COUNTRY WERE CALLED UPON TO REBUFF GAINS MADE BY RIGHTISTS SINCE SPLIT IN UNITED FRONT (UF) GOVERNMENT IN SEPT. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF CP/M INTERNAL FEUD OVER CONTINUING WITHIN UF.

3. ATTHA'S EDITORIAL ADVISER (FORMERLY EDITOR) H.G.S. RATNAWEERA HAS BEEN FORCED TO GO ON INVOLUNTARY LEAVE IN MANIFESTATION OF THAT SCHISM. UNDER GUIDANCE OF RATNAWEERA, ATTHA HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY CRITICAL OF UF POLICIES SINCE SEPT OUSTER OF TROTSKYITE LANKA SAMA SAMAJA PARTY. PAPER PARTICULARLY ATTACKED NEW ECONOMIC POLICIES ENCOURAGING FOREIGN INVESTMENT PRESENTED IN FINANCE MINISTERS NOVEMBER BUDGET SPEECH WHICH WERE ALSO CRITICIZED IN CENTRAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT.

4. WE UNDERSTAND RATNAWEERA WAS ASKED TO GO ON LEAVE AS ALTERNATIVE TO CLOSURE OF PAPER UNDER PRESSURE FROM SOVIET EMBASSY. OUSTER WAS CARRIED OUT BY PARTY PRESIDENT AND CABINET MEMBER PIETER KEUNEMAN WHILE GENERAL SECRETARY S.A. WICKREMASINGHE AND OTHER CP/M HARD-LINERS WERE ATTENDING PARTY CONGRESS IN CUBA.

5. KEUNEMAN AND SOVIET UNION APPEAR TO WANT CP/M TO REMAIN IN UF AND THUS WANT TO AVOID ANTAGONIZING PM THROUGH PUBLIC CRITICISM. WICKREMASINGHE AND OTHER HARD-LINERS ARE SAID TO FAVOR LEAVING COALITION. THUS LONG-STANDING DISPUTE BETWEEN KEUNEMAN AND WICKREMASINGHE, WHICH ONCE BEFORE SPLIT CP/M (REF AIRGRAM) ALTHOUGH ONLY TEMPORARILY, MAY FLARE UP AGAIN.

6. AT SAME TIME, PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE ALSO SEEMS TO BELIEVE IT IS IN HER INTEREST TO TRY TO

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KEEP CP/M IN COALITION. SHE REPORTEDLY INDUCED SON, ANURA, TO AKE DEC 29 PUBLIC SPEECH WHICH WAS HIGHLY CONCILIATORY TO CP/M. THIS WAS IN RESPONSE TO COMPLAINTS BY KEUNEMAN THAT SLFP GROUP LED BY ANURA WAS TRYING TO FORCE CP/M OUT OF GOVT AND WAS CARRYING NEWS STORIES IN TIMES GROUP NEWSPAPERS, WHICH ARE CONTROLLED BY ANURA, CRITICAL OF CP/M. PERKINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, COMMUNISTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL CONCESSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COLOMB00013
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760001-0212
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760191/aaaadcjz.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 COLOMBO A-167
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <27 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMUNIST PARTY EXPOUNDS VIEWS ON WORLD AND DOMESTIC AFFAIRS
TAGS: PINT, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006